

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 SSO-00 FS-01 ABF-01 CU-04

L-03 /085 W

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O R 211250Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1163

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID CE

SUBJ: MOV NEGOTIATIONS: OFFICIAL TRAVEL ISSUE

NEW DELHI FOR O'DONNELL (AID)

REF: STATE 111396, JULY 7, 1969.

1. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON JUNE 20, FINANCE SECRETARY COOREY RAISED PREVIOUSLY UNMENTIONED ISSUE OF U.S. DEPT FOR FEEC PAYMENTS ON EMBASSY TRAVEL PURCHASES BEFORE OCTOBER 8, 1970. HE ESTIMATED THIS AMOUNT CAME TO ABOUT RS. 900,000 AND SUGGESTED THAT IT SHOULD HAVE DEDUCTED FROM FIRST PAYMENT OF ARREARAGES ON JULY 1, 1974 AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED IN CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN EMBASSY AND GSL IN JUNE 1970. IN TODAY'S DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT, COOREY WITHDREW REQUEST FOR DEDUCTION FROM FIRST ARREARAGE PAYMENT, STATED MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME-TABLE FOR PAYMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT, AND SAID TRAVEL AND MOV ARE TWO SEPARATE MATTERS.

2. AMBASSADOR PROPOSED TO COOREY THAT, IN VIEW OF USG CONCESSION ALLOWING PAYMENT OF ICA ARREARAGES TO JULY 1, 1974 AT OFFICIAL RATE, PAYMENTS FOR TRAVEL PRIOR TO OCTOBER 8, 1970 SHOULD BE TREATED IN SAME FORGIVING FEEC DIFFERENTIAL. CORREY REMAINED ADAMENT THAT TWO ISSUES

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ARE SEPARATE AND STATES JUSTIFICATION FOR CLAIM IS

CLEARLY INDICATED BY USG AGREEMENT TO PAY AT FEEC RATE
FROM OCTOBER 1970 ONWARD.

3. EMBASSY RESEARCH OF EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE REVEALS THAT
IN JULY 1969 WASHINGTON, IN STATE 111396, STATED QUESTION
OF PAYMENT OF FEEC'S ON U.S. OFFICIAL TRAVEL EXPENSES WAS
SEPARATE ISSUE FROM MOV AND THIS POINT WAS REPEATED IN
CHRONOLOGY SENT US AT BEGINNING OF MOV NEGOTIATIONS (STATE
251795). THERE IS ALSO NO REFERENCE TO FEEC TRAVEL ISSUE
IN DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE CONTAINING DETAILED CALCULATION OF
ARREARAGES DUE ON MOV LOANS (STATE 06621).

4. WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING HERE WHETHER COOREY'S CLAIM
CONTINUES LEGITIMATE. LAST LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC DEBT TO USDO ON MATTER WAS DATED MARCH 29, 1973.
THERE IT WAS STATED THAT FOR PERIODS JULY 2-AUGUST 9, 1969
AND SEPTEMBER 1, 1979-OCTOBER 8, 1970 USG OWED SUPPLEMENTAL
FEEC'S OF RS. 1,049,339,26. EMBASSY SHARE AMOUNTS TO ABOUT RS.
893,000 (ROUGHLY COOREY'S FIGURE), REST BEING
USEF/C TRAVEL CHARGES.

5. IN ANY CASE, WE RECOMMEND THAT FEEC TRAVEL ISSUE BE
TREATED AS SEPARATE QUESTION SO THAT MOV NEGOTIATIONS HAVE
CHANCE OF BEING WOUND UP NEXT WEEK. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED,
HOWEVER, THAT GSL MAY FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES AGAIN INSIST ON
LINKING THE TWO. IF TRAVEL QUESTION CAN BE SETTLED QUICKLY,
WELL AND GOOD. IF NOT, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE
SOME REFERENCE TO IT IN PROPOSED LETTER TO FINANCE MINISTER
(COLOMBO 1667) OR IN SEPARATE SIDE LETTER.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS
COLOMBO TIME MONDAY, JUNE 24.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COLOMB01693
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740163-0183
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740626/aaaaavme.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 111396, JULY 7, 1969.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOV NEGOTIATIONS: OFFICIAL TRAVEL ISSUE NEW DELHI FOR O'DONNELL (AID)
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, CE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005